

# Belmont Rural Newsletter

PARISH OF BELMONT RURAL

February 2016



Welcome to the February 2016 newsletter from **Belmont Rural Parish Council**.

Parish Councils represent the grass roots level of local government and provide a means by which local people can influence their local environment and the provision of services.

This newsletter aims to summarise some of the work of the parish council over the last few weeks, highlight some of the upcoming events and opportunities and in this newsletter, we start to look to the future for residents of the parish of Belmont Rural

## Meeting dates:

10th March 2016 at Northolme Community Centre

14th April 2016 Belmont Community Centre

12th May 2016 Annual Parish Council Meeting Northolme Community Centre

7pm start for all meetings.

## Spring Fever!

Can you spare an hour or two on **Sunday 22nd May** to help clear an area of public open space and get it ready for summer? We will be holding a Jubilee Field Community Action Day on 22nd May from 2pm—4pm to help clear dead twigs and grass, collect litter and prepare wild flower beds on Jubilee Field (behind Dorchester Way). Families welcome (but no unaccompanied children please for safety reasons!) and in return there will be a **free barbecue** for all participants afterwards at the Northolme Centre.

See the separate flyer for further information or contact the Clerk at the address on page 4.

### Jubilee Field Community Action Day

on

**Sunday 22nd May 2016**

2pm—4pm

At **Northolme Community Centre**

**FREE BARBECUE**



## Tell us what you think—Results

Thank you to everyone who returned their completed questionnaire enclosed with the last newsletter. The Parish Council has been delighted with the response which has helped with planning for the future and has already provided some vital evidence of what's really important to Belmont Rural residents.

At the final count, projects were ranked in order of preference as follows:

- 1) Support for Belmont Library
- 2) Maintenance of footpaths
- 3) Wildflower areas
- 3) Support to extend Belmont Community Centre
- 5) Activities for older people
- 6) Activities for children
- 7) Family activities
- 8) Traffic Calming—other
- 9) Financial Support for Northolme Centre extension
- 10) Traffic Calming Belmont Road

**We're on the Web!**

**[www.belmontrural-pc.gov.uk](http://www.belmontrural-pc.gov.uk)**

# Belmont Rural Newsletter

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Neighbourhood Development Plans look at policies for development within the parish

## Neighbourhood Development Plan

As reported in the last newsletter, work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan is continuing and at the time of going to press with this newsletter, we await a final document from the planning department before the draft can be submitted to Herefordshire Council as a prelude to the independent examination which is the next stage of the formal process. A huge thank you to everyone who has commented on various drafts or otherwise helped with the plan so far, which aims to set our own planning

policies for Belmont Rural.

In the summer there will be a referendum which will enable all residents to have a vote on whether the plan should be adopted so watch out for further comments and leaflets in the near future explaining what the process is and how you can take part.

In the meantime if you have any queries about the Neighbourhood Development Plan or the process to create our own, please contact the Parish Clerk at the address on page 4 of this newsletter.

## Belmont Library

Most people will be aware that funding constraints have led to some community based libraries having their opening hours reduced, some being transferred to community ownership and run by volunteers and some closing all together. Belmont Library is one of the best used community based libraries in the county and, at a time when the main Hereford Library has had to close whilst asbestos is removed, has stepped into the gap created by the loss

of the City Library and extended its opening hours, attracting many more users.

Your Parish Council was delighted to learn that Herefordshire Council has agreed to retain the library service at Belmont for a further 12 months from April 2016 and, thanks to a grant of £2,000 from the Parish Council, the extended opening hours can be retained for the year.

Further work will undoubtedly be needed to

retain the library service in the future in light of further spending cuts but for the next twelve months at least, that service appears to be safe!



LIBRARY SERVICE  
AT BELMONT  
SECURE FOR  
ANOTHER 12  
MONTHS  
DESPITE  
FUNDING CUTS



## Public Participation at meetings

Did you know that as a resident of the parish you have a right to attend and observe Parish Council meetings?

All decisions of the Parish Council must be taken as part of a public meeting and on some agenda items you can, at the discretion of the Chairman, speak and

put forward your views. Your Parish Council welcomes public attendance so why not come along and support your local parish councillors.

Meetings take place on the second Thursday of every month and details of the venue and agenda can be found on notice boards and

the website, where you can also download documents and supporting papers for each meeting.

For further information on the work of the Parish Council or about meetings, please contact the Clerk at the address on page 4.

## Financial Matters

Your Parish Council receives funding through the Council Tax system. Each year the parish council decides upon its spending priorities and sets a budget which is funded through its "Precept" (collected as part of your Council Tax payment) and any reserves that have been built up.

At its meeting in December, and guided by the questionnaire results from the last newsletter on projects and priorities, and taking into consideration some services traditionally funded by Herefordshire Council which may now fall to Parish Council funding in the future, your Parish Council approved

spending plans for 2017-2018 totaling £71,425.00. Full details of how this figure was made up can be found on the website but this includes grants and donations to organisations working within the Parish of some £29,000 (and includes Belmont Library) and capital projects of £2,000 as well as the everyday running costs of a Parish Council such as staffing, repairs and maintenance, audit costs, election costs, training and room hire for meetings. This expenditure will be financed by a precept of £55,000 and partly from reserves.

This year Herefordshire Council will not be passing

on a grant to parish councils from central government which aims to meet the shortfall in funding from those who, for whatever reason, do not pay the full Council Tax. For 2015/6 this grant was worth £3,096 to Belmont Rural which is a significant figure and will be made up from slightly higher contributions from all households.

All this means that the Parish element of your Council Tax for 2016-2017 will rise slightly to approximately 80p per week for a band D property.

For more information on Parish Council finances, check out the website or come along to our monthly



meetings. Details of forthcoming meetings can be found on the website or on page 1 of this newsletter.



Over the last two years the standard of maintenance of our public open spaces has been the subject of some concern expressed by a number of people. Taking on board all the comments, your Parish Council has now agreed with Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty Living Places that we will enhance the work of the current grounds maintenance efforts and help maintain some areas of public open space. A small budget has been allocated to do this, and a small but growing band of volunteers are already helping with grass cutting, hedge trimming and similar jobs.

There are lots of ways you can get involved:

- Please: report any full bins, broken glass or litter to Herefordshire Council using the online tool or by phoning 01432 383000
- Pick up your litter and take it home or put in a bin
- Pick up after your dog, wrap and dispose of safely in bins or take it home and put in your household waste bin
- Cut back your own trees and bushes that overhang the footpaths or help an elderly neighbour to cut theirs back
- Encourage your children to use the litter bins and not throw wrappers or cans on the ground
- Join our **Jubilee Field Community Action Day** on 22nd May and help plant wild flowers or clear an area of dead grass and scrub

If you would like to join the Pride in Parish volunteering scheme or are able to offer just an hour or two of your time, please contact the Clerk at the address on page 4.

## BELMONT RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

Belmont Rural Parish Council  
c/o 5 Deerhurst Drive  
Belmont  
Hereford  
HR2 7XX  
Phone: 07722 872 180  
E-mail:  
clerk@belmontrural-pc.gov.uk

**Parish Councillors are volunteers elected to serve a term of office of up to four years and must reside within the Parish or within three miles of the boundary, or work within the Parish. They must be at least 18 years of age, must not have served a custodial sentence or be an undischarged bankrupt. Parish Councillors must comply with a Code of Conduct which includes declaring interests, financial and otherwise, at meetings and on a public register.**

**The Parish Councillors listed below were elected or co-opted following an uncontested election held in May 2015.**

**Parish Council meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month and alternate between Belmont Community Centre and Northolme Community Centre. Details of meeting dates and venues can be found on notice boards and on the website and a list of forthcoming meetings can be found on page 1.**

### Your Parish Councillors

<b>Adrian Bridges</b>	4 Broadholme Road, Belmont	Tel: 07982 425 895	adrianbridges500@gmail.com
<b>Aimee Bridges</b>	4 Broadholme Road, Belmont	Tel: 01432 276905	aimeebridges13@gmail.com
<b>Lyndsey Evans</b>	37 Wheatridge Road, Belmont	Tel: 07859 218 939	lyndseyevans49@hotmail.com
<b>Ron Loft</b>	1 Sydwall Road, Belmont	Tel: 01432 273650	
<b>Andy Myatt</b>	50 Dorchester Way, Belmont	Tel: 01432 273470(Chairman)	andmor.home@btinternet.com
<b>John Newman</b>	26 Marcle Walk, Newton Farm	Tel: 01432 271624	
<b>Des Parish</b>	28 Wyedean Rise, Belmont	Tel: 07790 594 115	desireeparish001@aol.co.uk
<b>Derek Preedy</b>	18 Whitefriars Road, Belmont	Tel: 07714 176 624	dpartex.preedy@tesco.net
<b>Mark Schoffer</b>	7 Silver Fir Close, Belmont	Tel: 07875 014 860	markschoffer@gmail.com
<b>Parish Clerk</b>			
Liz Kelso	5 Deerhurst Drive, Belmont	Tel: 07722 872 180	clerk@belmontrural-pc.gov.uk
<b>District Councillor</b>			
Tracy Bowes	17 Bodmin Close , Belmont	Tel: 07710 557 560	tracy.bowes@herefordshire.gov.uk

**All Correspondence for the Parish Council should be addressed to the Clerk**